

08-1275

October 10, 2008

Re: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

Dear Pool Operator:

Between 1997 and 2007, 74 incidents associated with suction entrapment, including 63 injuries and 9 deaths, were reported. With the aim of reducing deaths and injury by making pools safer, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act was signed into law on December 19, 2007. The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, 15 USC 8001 Title XIV Pool and Spa Safety section 1404, defines a public pool as well as drain cover standards and other applicable standards.

The Act specifies that on or after December 19, 2008, swimming pool and spa drain covers available for purchase in the United States must meet specific performance requirements. Furthermore, public swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs must meet compliant drain cover installation requirements. In certain instances, public pools and spas must have additional devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment. Public pools and spas not in operation on December 19, 2008, need not meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act until they return to operation.

If you have questions about certain enforcement or legal concerns, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 301-504-7908 or info@cpsc.gov. For more information, contact Central District Health Department, Environmental Health, at 327-7499.

Sincerely,



Tom Schmalz
Pools Program Manager

Serving Valley, Elmore, Boise, and Ada Counties

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Enviro. Health: 327-7499
Family Planning: 327-7400
Immunizations: 327-7450
Senior Nutrition: 327-7460
WIC: 327-7488
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